

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 217823
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DRAFTED BY:OC/P:CLOVETT:JF

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R 121817Z SEP 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT 4189

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FOR FRDCO

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 8607 SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA
BUJUMBURA KIGALI MONTREAL NAIROBI TEL AVIV BONN DAR ES SALAAM
DTD 9/8/77.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 8607

MONTREAL FOR US REP ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, OTRA, US, CG, CPRS

SUBJ: INCIDENT ON ETHIOPIA AIRLINES FLIGHT 784

1. MS. STEPHANIE SIMMONS, A BRITISH NATIONAL EMPLOYEE OF OXFAM
ZAIRE WHO IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO US EMBASSY MEMBERS,
REPORTED THE FOLLOWING INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED AUGUST 26 ABOARD
FLIGHT EL-784 ENROUTE FROM ADDIS ABABA TO KIGALI:

2. WHILE TRANSITING UGANDAN AIRSPACE THE PILOT ANNOUNCED THAT
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THE PLANE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY UGANDAN RADIO THAT IT MUST LAND
AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT. AFTER LANDING THE PLANE WAS SURROUNDED BY
SOLDIERS WITH MACHINE GUNS. FIVE SOLDIERS WITH GUNS CAME ABOARD
THE PLANE AND INSTRUCTED ALL PASSENGERS TO REMAIN SEATED BUT
TOOK AWAY THE CAPTAIN AND FIRST OFFICER OF THE PLANE. AFTER
APPROXIMATELY AN HOUR AND A HALF THE SOLDIERS RETURNED WITH
THE ETHIOPIAN CAPTAIN AND FIRST OFFICER AND THEN INTERROGATED

ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT MS. SIMMONS AND THE ONLY OTHER WESTERN PASSENGER ABOARD THE PLANE, A CAUCASIAN MALE WHOM MS. SIMMONS BELIEVED TO BE OF FRENCH NATIONALITY. BOTH MS. SIMMONS AND THE FRENCHMAN WERE QUESTIONED REPEATEDLY BY THE SOLDIERS AS TO THEIR NATIONALITY AND AS TO WHETHER THEY HAD A SECOND PASSPORT. AFTER THE SOLDIERS APPEARED TO BE SATISFIED THAT SUCH WAS NOT THE CASE THEY WITHDREW AND THE PLANE WAS PERMITTED TO PROCEED. LATER, THE ETHIOPIAN CAPTAIN TOLD MS. SIMMONS THAT HE HAD BEEN INTERROGATED INTENSIVELY AS TO WHETHER THERE WERE ANY ISRAELIS ABOARD THE PLANE. IF SO, THE CAPTAIN SAID, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED BY THE UGANDAN MILITARY.

3. FLIGHT ET-784 FROM ADDIS ABABA TO KIGALI AND KINSHASA AND RETURN DOES NOT MAKE SCHEDULED STOPS AT ENTEBBE BUT DOES TRANSIT UGANDAN AIRSPACE. AIR ZAIRE FLIGHTS QC-060 FROM KINSHASA TO DAR ES SALAAM EVERY WEDNESDAY AND QC-061 FROM DAR ES SALAAM TO KINSHASA EVERY THURSDAY DO MAKE SCHEDULED STOPS AT ENTEBBE. IN ADDITION, IN VIEW OF ABOVE INCIDENT THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO DISSEMINATE WARNINGS TO TRAVELERS CONTEMPLATING TRAVEL IN THE AREA.

4. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT BRITISH EMBASSY IN KINSHASA ALSO PLANS TO REPORT ABOVE INCIDENT AND TO REQUEST ACTION BY BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTRY. DECONTROL 12/31/81 CULTER UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT DETENTION, HARASSMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE217823
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: OC/P:CLOVETT:JF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770330-0543
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770973/aaaacjww.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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